

Board Conference Room
January 23, 2020
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The regular meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Powers in the Board Conference Room on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 11:53 a.m.

Roll was called by the Clerk. Present: Mr. Sebolt, Mr. Gustafson, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Byl, Mr. Brown, Mr. Walker and Mr. Powers.

Mr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. Stewart Sanders, Newaygo County Register of Deeds; Mr. Brandon Denby, Livingston County Register; Ms. Lori Martin, Clare County Clerk/Register; Ms. Michelle Stevenson, Roscommon County Clerk/Register; Ms. Cheryl Kelly, Mason County Clerk; Mr. J. Randolph Hepworth, Oceana County Surveyor; Ms. Lori Green, Weare Township resident; John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; and Allison Scarbrough, Oceana County Press correspondent were also present.

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and seconded by Mr. Sebolt to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 minutes as corrected.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Powers noted that the notice for the public hearing regarding the combination of the Clerk and Register of Deeds offices was not published therefore, it has been cancelled. However, the Board would be open to listen to public comment on this issue.

Mr. Sanders, Newaygo County Register of Deeds, began by stating that he appreciated the time the Board allowed for comment on this issue and the intent was to bring information to the Board. He introduced Mr. Brandon Denby, Livingston County Register of Deeds. Mr. Denby reported that Livingston County has explored the possible combination several times in the past, but chose not to combine. He noted that these two offices are completely different. There are many statutes that each office is required to follow and they are constantly evolving. Combining these offices would take away a voice for the public and create inefficiencies in both offices that has been proven. Mr. Denby quoted Oceana County's mission statement which states "The mission of Oceana County is to provide efficient, effective, responsive government with the highest quality services ... and to promote health, safety and general welfare of all Oceana County citizens, guests and visitors." Mr. Denby's opinion is that if these offices were to combine, it would be necessary to change this statement.

Ms. Martin, Clerk/Register, Clare County indicated that because the Clerk is also the Clerk of the Court as well as Elections Administrator, the Clerk duties demand more of her time than Register duties. Ms. Martin indicated that she is doing a good job, but feels that she could be better for her constituents if she was able to focus on one office.

Ms. Stevenson, Roscommon County Clerk/Register, feels that this issue should be decided by a vote of the people. She listed the many duties for each office and while she manages to provide good customer service, it is difficult to switch rolls.

Ms. Kelly, Mason County Clerk, stated that she also is opposed to the combination and provided the reasons to the Board.

Mr. Sanders, Newaygo County Register of Deeds, thanked the Board for allowing these comments to be heard. He elaborated on the new technological advancements that the Register of Deeds offices are now being encouraged to accept and process electronic and remotely notarized documents. He stated that it is extremely important to maintain and ensure the integrity of the documents.

Mr. Hepworth, Pentwater Township resident and Oceana County Surveyor, stated that he is a regular user of the Register of Deeds office and is opposed to the combination of the Clerk and Register of Deeds offices. He stated that the combination of offices would result in diminishing the quality of services provided as the responsibilities of a Clerk/Register would be so great that he/she would not be able to dedicate enough time to either office.

Lori Green, Weare Township resident, also stated her opposition to the combination of offices. She also feels that the combination of offices would create a reduction in representation of the voters. In Ms. Green's opinion, both offices have a large number of statutory duties to follow that it would be a difficult task to assume one person could be well versed in all of them.

Mr. Powers asked all of the commissioners if there was a need to move forward with a public hearing regarding the combination of offices. It was the consensus of the board to not proceed with a hearing as is not appropriate to combine at this time.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – ADOPTION OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR SECTION 504

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and supported by Mr. Byl to approve the proposed Grievance Procedure which is required by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in order to receive grant funds to assist Peterson Farms, Inc. with the acquisition of additional machinery and equipment to expand its fruit processing operations in Oceana County.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 – ADOPTION OF A POLICY REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP

Moved by Mr. Gustafson and supported by Mr. Sebolt to approve the proposed Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap policy which is required by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in order to receive grant funds to assist Peterson Farms, Inc. with the acquisition of additional machinery and equipment to expand its fruit processing operations in Oceana County.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 3 – EXTENSION OF FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Moved by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Walker to approve a recommendation from the County Administrator to extend Family Medical Leave (FMLA) for an additional two weeks

(until February 11, 2020) for Mr. Brian Lennon, Transfer Station Operator. Heath/vision/dental/life premiums paid by the County of Oceana on Mr. Lennon's behalf will also continue through the extended FMLA leave.

Roll call vote: Mr. Brown - yes; Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Gustafson - yes; Ms. Meyette - yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; Mr. Byl - yes; and Mr. Powers - yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 4 – AMENDMENT TO AMBULANCE FUND FY 2019 BUDGET

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Sebolt to approve the following budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2019 as described. The budget amendment is necessary to cover increased medical first responder fees incurred during the year.

Ambulance Fund (#210)

- Increase Other Services/Charges – MFR Costs (210-000-821.020) by \$12,100 from \$95,000 to \$107,100
- Decrease Telephone (210-000-850.000) by \$12,100 from \$16,000 to \$3,900

Roll call vote: Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; Mr. Brown - yes; Ms. Meyette - yes; Mr. Byl - yes; Mr. Gustafson - yes; and Mr. Powers - yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – FY 2020 GIS FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2020

Moved by Ms. Meyette and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the following budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2020 as described. The budget amendment will allow for the purchase of hardware and software to assist Equalization Department staff with field work related to the annual appraisal studies prepared by the department.

GIS Fund (#211)

- Increase Transfer Out (211-000-999.000) by \$2,300 from \$3,800 to \$6,100
- Increase Previous Year End (211-000-401.000) by \$2,300 from \$58 to \$2,358

Technology and Innovation Fund (#298)

- Increase Transfer Out (298-000.699.998) by \$2,300 from \$115,820 to \$118,120
- Increase Software (209-000-730.050) by \$2,300 from \$0 to \$2,300

Roll call vote: Ms. Meyette - yes; Mr. Brown - yes; Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Gustafson - yes; Mr. Sebolt - yes; Mr. Byl - yes; and Mr. Powers - yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO 6 – MERS MULTIPLIER BRIDGED BENEFITS CHANGE

Moved by Mr. Byl and seconded by Mr. Brown_that during the course of each fiscal year the Oceana County Board of Commissioners (Board) is informed of current and future budgetary constraints involving our public funds. The Board, therefore, approves the recommendation from the County Administrator to apply the Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS) Bridged Benefits program to active employees in the non-union defined benefit pension plans (General Division 01 and Building Department Division 11), effective March 1, 2020.

The Bridged Benefits program will reduce the multiplier used in MERS’ pension formula from 2.5% to 1.5%, thus reducing the county’s pension liability and annual pension payments to MERS. A reduction in overall pension liability is calculated to be \$700,000 - \$1,000,000; and a reduction in annual pension payments to MERS is \$118,380 - \$165,000 for a total savings over six years of \$879,380.

Furthermore, the approved change in the pension formula multiplier does not affect current retirees in the two divisions stated above.

Roll call: Mr. Byl – yes; Mr. Brown – yes; Ms. Meyeette – yes; Mr. Sebolt – yes; Mr. Gustafson – yes; Mr. Walker – yes; and Mr. Powers – yes.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. – PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Moved by Mr. Byl and seconded by Mr. Sebolt to approve the payment of claims for January 9, 2020 in the tentative amounts as follows:

AMBULANCE FUND	\$256,376.95
FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND	2,408.63
GIS FUND	-0-
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	-0-
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	9,530.35
TECHNOLOGY	4,035.11
FORECLOSURE	7,277.03
K-9 UNIT	-0-
VETERANS AFFAIRS	3,131.46
MEDICAL RESERVE	-0-
AUTOMATION FUND – R.O.D.	-0-
INDIGENT DEFENSE FUND	15,524.77
LOCAL CORR OFFICERS TRNG FUND	500.00
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRNG	-0-
VICTIMS SERVICES	-0-
CAP PROJ-EQUIP REPLACEMENT	3,250.00
GENERAL FUND	555,468.13
TOTAL	\$857,502.43

Roll call vote: Mr. Byl - yes; Mr. Sebolt – yes; Mr. Walker - yes; Mr. Brown – yes; Ms. Meyette – yes; Mr. Gustafson - yes; and Mr. Powers – yes.

Motion carried.

Administrators Report

Administration

A recap of 2019 end of year “good news” includes the following:

- We applied \$20,489 of money already on account with MERS to our annual defined contribution pension plans for our general employee division and sheriff’s employee division.
- To retain the county as a customer, BCN offered a one-time credit towards our annual premium of \$55,415. The credit contributed to a lower overall increase in health insurance costs.
- We received interest and dividends from our worker’s comp fund of \$68,238 (2017) and \$72,614 (2018) for a total of \$140,852 for the two-year period.
- We recovered \$60,000 in additional indirect costs from the ambulance fund.
- We received \$69,971 from the MIDC for our corrected local share requirement.
- The full appropriation to the Child Care Fund was not needed, allowing the general fund to retain \$103,300.
- Board action continues to recognize the importance of managing our unfunded pension and OPEB liabilities by committing a portion of our unassigned general fund’s fund balance to future pension and OPEB liabilities.

Sheriff’s Department

The Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration released a report on January 10 offering a series of legislative recommendations regarding jail populations.

An analysis of department OT/holiday pay between 2018 and 2019 shows a decrease of \$60,000 in annual costs.

Oceana County Economic Alliance

The CDBG grant application is nearing completion which will lead to a formal grant agreement. Most recently, I signed an agreement defining the terms that must be met regarding the release of grant funds.

Board members met with a consultant who is experienced in fund development and reviewed a proposal for contractual services.

Ken Fisher has resigned from the Housing Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Kelley, Michigan State University Extension Director provided a brief report regarding the fourth quarter.

Chairperson Powers asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

Mr. Powers, Chairperson